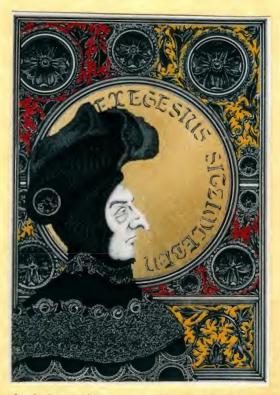
THE PROTESTANT DIVINE COMEDY

THE HISTORICAL JESUS



The searching for the historical Jesus — one of the most frivolous topics of all times — was a misleading business from the very beginning in eighteenth century. Librarian Reimarus was, so to speak, the pioneer of numberless expeditions towards what one might well name as the exegetical El Dorado. As every one very well knows, Spaniards had got into madness in such a quest throughout South America during sixteenth century. However, it looks like Germans were and still are adamantly concerned with this sort of popular mobilization of scriptural sport, all of which is — so far — no more than a justification for charging universities' and seminaries' payroll offices. Thus, the Reimarus' Syndrome shows vividly how distorted a mind might become in just a matter of few papyruses. The most pitiful example of this malady is represented by Herr Exegesius Sitzimleben. The so-called free exam of the Scriptures became a kind of tournament for seminarians and other species, who make use of Sitzimleben's exegetical tools ad nauseam. Totally out of his mind, professor Sitzimleben exerts himself by using real paraphernalia of exegetical machinery, and all this of his own craftsmanship. His latest lunatic endeavors are — according to my informants — reaching the historical Quijote, the historical Hyperion, the historical Hamlet, and the historical Raskolnikov, among others.

your mean, base, useless servant,

il signore Pecorelli, tuttologo e pittore molto rumoroso.